

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 045885
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /066 R

DRAFTED BY OSD/ISA:HDUNLOP
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:EREHFELD
EUR/CE:GHUMPHREY (SUBS)
-----021415 108214 /43

R 020318Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045885

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, OCON, AWACS, FRG, NATO

SUBJECT: LETTERS FROM FRG MOD LEBER TO SECDEF

1. QUOTED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION ARE TEXTS OF
A LETTER FROM FRG MOD LEBER DATED FEBRUARY 23 TO SECRETARY
OF DEFENSE BROWN, AND FROM FRG AMBASSADOR VON STADEN
DATED FEBRUARY 24 QUOTING ANOTHER LETTER FROM LEBER. WE
DO NOT PROPOSE TO COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF LETTERS UNTIL
WE HAVE REVIEWED THE VARIOUS ISSUES RAISED THEREIN AND
CLARIFIED THE TRANSLATION WHERE UNCLEAR. THEREFORE
ADDRESSES SHOULD TAKE NO INITIATIVE IN DISCUSSING THE
LETTERS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS OR INTERNATIONAL STAFF
AT NATO. MARCH 15 HAS BEEN SET AS A DATE FOR LEBER VISIT.

2. TEXT OF FEBRUARY 23 LETTER:
"MY DEAR COLLEAGUE,
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 045885

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR KIND LETTER
OF FEBRUARY 1, 1977. I, TOO, HOPE THAT WE SHALL SOON
HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET PERSONALLY.

PLEASE LET ME ALSO REFER TO THE LETTER BY YOUR
PREDECESSOR-IN-OFFICE OF DECEMBER 2, 1976.

I SHARE YOUR CONVICTION THAT IN THE ALLIANCE, WE MUST STILL
INCREASE OUR EFFORTS TOWARDS ACHIEVING STANDARDIZED SOLU-
TIONS AND COOPERATIVE PROJECTS.

IN THE INTEREST OF STRENGTHENING THE SPIRIT OF THE ALLIANCE, JOINT DEVELOPMENTS AND A LARGE-SCALE INTRODUCTION OF IDENTICAL WEAPON SYSTEMS SHOULD NOT ONLY BE CONSIDERED UNDER THE ASPECT OF UNIFORM LOGISTIC SUPPORT BUT ALSO FROM THE VIEW OF AN INCREASE IN COMBAT EFFICIENCY AND SHOULD GENERALLY BE EMPHATICALLY ADVOCATED, IF POSSIBLE BY ALL PARTNERS. THIS WOULD HAVE A LASTING POSITIVE EFFECT, ESPECIALLY ON THE TIES BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN PARTNERS TO THE ALLIANCE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE SHOULD AVOID SETBACKS IN THE FORTHCOMING COOPERATIVE PROJECTS, SINCE THEY WOULD ADVERSELY INFLUENCE THE WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE, WHICH RECENTLY HAS BECOME MORE AND MORE OBVIOUS. YOU HAVE MENTIONED THE NATO-AEW SYSTEM PRESENTLY DISCUSSED WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. DURING THE DPC-MEETING IN BRUSSELS IN DECEMBER 1976, MY REPRESENTATIVE HAS STATED THAT, ON THE BASIS OF THE OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS, WE HIGHLY ASSESS THE POSSIBILITIES TO IMPROVE THE DETERRENCE AND DEFENSE CAPABILITIES OF NATO BROUGHT ABOUT BY SUCH A SYSTEM. WE CONSIDER THE PROJECT AS A NATO-PROJECT WITH PARTICIPATION OF ALL NATIONS IN PROCUREMENT AND OPERATION TO BE OF HIGH POLITICAL INTEGRATION VALUE.

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS CONFERENCE AND THE RECENT TALKS HELD BY FINANCE EXPERTS HAVE INDICATED THAT IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES, THE PREREQUISITES FOR A DEFINITE DECISION HAD NOT YET BEEN PRESENT. IN THIS CONTEXT, MY MAIN CONCERN ARE THE STILL EXISTING UNCERTAINTIES IN COST ESTIMATES FOR INVESTMENTS, FOLLOW-ON SUPPORT, INTEGRATION AND OPERATION WHICH LEAD TO CONSIDERABLE COST RISKS.

PAGE 03 STATE 045885

ON FEBRUARY 2, 1977, I HAVE EXPLAINED TO THE FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE PRESENCE OF THE CHANCELLOR OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY THE KNOWN, STILL UNCHANGED CONDITIONS FOR OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE AWACS-PROGRAM. THEY ARE:

1) THE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS OF NATO MUST BE MET QUALITATIVELY AND QUANTITATIVELY BY AWACS.

2) FOR US, REALIZATION WILL BE POSSIBLE ONLY IN THE FORM OF A NATO-PROJECT WITH PARTICIPATION IN PROCUREMENTS, INTEGRATION AND OPERATION BY ALL PARTNERS IF POSSIBLE.

3) FAIR COST SHARING AS WELL AS AN APPROPRIATE INDUSTRIAL PARTICIPATION MUST BE ENSURED IN ADDITION TO AN ECONOMIC COMPENSATION, POSSIBLY INCLUDING OTHER FIELDS.

4) THE NATIONAL COST QUOTE MUST BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF NATIONAL PLANNING. THIS MEANS THAT NO MARKING-DOWN EFFECT MAY BE PRODUCED WITH REGARD TO OTHER

IMPORTANT PROJECTS.

5) A DECISION BY THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE RE-
QUIRES THE CONSENT OF BOTH THE CABINET AND PARLIAMENT
AND DEPENDS ON THE CLARIFICATION OF THE REMAINING RELEVANT
FACTORS. IN ADDITION, I HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO PREPARE A
MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS IN MY MINISTRY OF THE COMPENSATION
MENTIONED BY YOU, WHICH SHOULD FULLY CORRESPOND TO THE
POSSIBLE GERMAN SHARE IN AWACS AND MUST BE HANDLED WITHIN
THE SCOPE OF A GENERAL SOLUTION. IN THIS CONTEXT, I
ENVISAGE AN ARRANGEMENT COMPARABLE TO THE ONE MET BETWEEN
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 045885

THE USA AND GREAT BRITAIN.

I WOULD APPRECIATE IF, AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THESE STUD-
IES, WE COULD ENTER INTO A FRUITFUL DISCUSSION ON THIS
SUBJECT.

A FAIR COST SHARING IS BASED ON THE VIEW THAT THE FISCAL
VALUE GAINED BY THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES FROM PROCUREMENT
AND OPERATION OF SUCH A SYSTEM IS INCLUDED INTO THE CON-
SIDERATIONS. THIS IS WHY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GERMAN
DELEGATION - LIKE REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER COUNTRIES -
HAS INTRODUCED THIS ASPECT INTO THE TALKS OF THE FINANCE
EXPERTS IN BRUSSELS. FURTHERMORE, THE GERMAN SIDE, TOO,
IS INTERESTED IN MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND BASIC OVERHAULING
OF THE AWACS-FLEET. THESE FACTORS WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED
INTO THE CONSIDERATION REGARDING COMPENSATION.

IN AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL, I CONSIDER
THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DEFENSE MINISTERS ON AWACS
RECOMMENDED BY THE NATO-SECRETARY GENERAL TO BE USEFUL
ONLY AFTER AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED IN ALL PROBLEM AREAS.

WITH REGARD THERETO, I SUPPORT THE VIEW OF OUR BRITISH
COLLEAGUE TO INITIATE THE PROJECT ONLY AFTER FINANCING
HAS BEEN ASSURED TO ONE HUNDRED PERCENT.

I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO
ASSUME A FINANCIAL SHARE IN AWACS WHICH WOULD ACCEED THE
VIEWS PRESENTED IN DETAIL BY THE GERMAN REPRESENTATIVE IN
BRUSSELS. FURTHERMORE, I BELIEVE THAT THE AMERICAN SHARE
IN FINANCING THE AWACS-PROGRAM SHOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY
HIGHER THAN THE PRESENT PROPOSALS AND THAT THE GERMAN
SHARE SHOULD APPROXIMATELY CORRESPOND TO THE BRITISH SHARE.

I ALSO CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT OUR PARTICI-
PATION IN THIS PROJECT IS IMAGINABLE ONLY UNDER THE CON-
FIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 045885

DITION OF A FIXED COST CEILING FOR PROCUREMENT,
INTEGRATION, FOLLOW-ON SUPPORT AND OPERATION.

DURING THE TALKS ON TANK HARMONIZATION HELD IN BONN
ON JANUARY 11 AND 12, 1977, THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY,
NEGOTIATING FOR THE US GOVERNMENT HAS CONVEYED THE DESIRE
OF YOUR PREDECESSOR-IN-OFFICE TO DISPENSE WITH THE OVER-
ALL EVALUATION OF THE LEOPARD II BATTLE TANK FOR THE TIME
BEING.

WE HAVE NOT BEEN IN A POSITION TO FULLY COMPLY WITH THIS
WISH, SINCE WE EXPECT THAT THE OVERALL EVALUATION WILL
BE CONDUCTED IN DUE TIME. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO
PROVIDE ME WITH AN APPROPRIATE TIME SCHEDULE, SINCE
OTHERWISE A LARGE PORTION OF THE FINANCIAL EFFORT ADDI-
TIONALLY CONTRIBUTED BY US WOULD HAVE BEEN IN VAIN. WE
WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN EXPLAINING THIS TO OUR PARLIA-
MENT. IT MAY BE ALSO NOT EXCLUDED THAT ON THE PART OF
PARLIAMENT, A RELATION MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED WITH OTHER
STANDARDIZATION PROJECTS.

DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS ON JANUARY 11, 1977, I HAVE
EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT A FAILURE OF THE AGREED BATTLE
TANK STANDARDIZATION WOULD HAVE TO RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE
EFFECTS ON STANDARDIZATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

ESPECIALLY, WE HAVE PROVED OUR UNDERSTANDING FOR THE FACT
THAT THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION SHOULD NOT COMMIT HER
PREDECESSOR-IN-OFFICE. THEREFORE, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK
YOU TO DETERMINE IF AN AMERICAN DECISION ON THE CONFIGUR-
ATION OF THE BATTLE TANK GUN MAY NOT BE MADE PRIOR TO
DECEMBER 1977, ESPECIALLY, SINCE REAL NEW CONCLUSIONS
CANNOT BE GAINED IN THE MEANTIME.

DURING THE SAME TALKS, I HAVE STRESSED WITH GREAT EMPHASIS
THAT WE CONSIDER THE ADDENDUM 1 TO THE MOU AS A "PACKAGE
SOLUTION" WHICH WE WANT TO ADHERE TO AND THAT THE GUN
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 045885

STANDARDIZATION WILL THUS BE POSSIBLE ONLY ON THE BASIS
OF THE GERMAN 120-MM SMOOTH-BORE GUN. WE SHALL INTRODUCE
THE LEOPARD II INCLUDING THE 120-MM SMOOTH-BORE GUN IN
PARLIAMENT IN MARCH 1977, AS AGREED UPON. THIS INTENTION
IS SUPPORTED BY OUR AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE, WHICH YOU ARE
ACQUAINTED WITH, WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE INTERCHANGEABILITY
OF THE 120-MM SMOOTH-BORE AMMUNITION BETWEEN THE BATTLE
TANK GUN SYSTEMS.

A VERY SIMILAR REASON MOTIVATES ME TO ASK YOU TO ALSO
DIRECT YOUR SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE ROLAND SYSTEM WHICH

CARRIES A SIGNAL EFFECT FOR EUROPEAN/AMERICAN COOPERATION

WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE USA COULD ALSO INCLUDE THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT TANK GEPARD IN THE STANDARDIZATION CONSIDERATIONS. BOTH SYSTEMS ALREADY INDICATE A EUROPEAN STANDARDIZATION.

I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR AGREEMENTS ON THE AAIM-9L PROJECT, FINAL APPROVAL HAS NOW BEEN RECEIVED PROVIDING FOR GERMAN REPRODUCTION WHILE WAIVING REIMBURSEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT COSTS AND LICENCE FEES. I CONSIDER THIS PROCEDURE A PROMISING MODEL TO ACCELERATE STANDARDIZATION WITHIN NATO AND I ASSUME THAT THIS AGREEMENT MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED TO THOSE EUROPEAN NATIONS NOT YET INCLUDED. THE SAME GOAL HAS CAUSED ME TO OFFER GREAT BRITAIN OUR 120-MM SMOOTH-BORE GUN AT HER DISPOSAL WAIVING REIMBURSEMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS COSTS.

THIS OFFER GENERALLY APPLIES TO THE ENTIRE LEOPARD II SYSTEM, TOO. BOTH EXAMPLES COULD CONSTITUTE A BASIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ARMAMENT COOPERATION WITHIN THE NATO.

WARM REGARDS,
SIGNED GEORG LEBER "
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 07 STATE 045885

3. TEXT OF FEBRUARY 24 LETTER:
"MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY

THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, GEORG LEBER, HAS FORWARDED THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM, WHICH WAS RECEIVED BY THIS EMBASSY TODAY. THE ORIGINAL LETTER WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY DIPLOMATIC COURIER:

'DEAR COLLEAGUE:

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 18, 1977. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING WITH YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN ORDER TO PERSONALLY DISCUSS TOGETHER THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS PERTAINING TO THE NORTH-ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. THE AGENDA PROPOSED BY YOU IS APPRECIATED. SINCE THE SUBJECTS ALSO INCLUDE THE "NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING PROGRAM", I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE CONSULTATIONS COULD BE SCHEDULED FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN 15 AND 18 MARCH, 1977. I COULD COME TO WASHINGTON DURING THAT PERIOD OF TIME. UNTIL THEN, THE PROCESS OF OPINION-FORMING IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY COULD BE FURTHER PROMOTED. THIS WILL FAVORABLY AFFECT OUR TALKS.

I HOPE THAT THE PROPOSED DATES ARE CONVENIENT FOR YOU.

/S/ GEORG LEBER, MINISTER OF DEFENSE,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY'.

-- VERY TRULY YOURS,
-- (SIGNED) VON STADEN

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, TEXT, STANDARDS, AIR DEFENSE, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, WARNING SYSTEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE045885
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: OSD/ISA:HDUNLOP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770071-1118
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703111/baaaevit.tel
Line Count: 279
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b6a101b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2964272
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTERS FROM FRG MOD LEBER TO SECDEF
TAGS: MILI, OCON, GE, US, NATO, (BROWN, HAROLD), (LEBER, GEORG)
To: BONN INFO LONDON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b6a101b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009